

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /086 W
-----022124 111436Z /47

R 092206Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 416

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 5095

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PE
SUBJECT: DISQUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES; A STRAW IN THE WIND

REF: LIMA 4781

1. EMBASSY REPORTED IN REFTEL PARA 5 RUMORS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOP WAS CONSIDERING DISQUALIFYING SOME CANDIDATES TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES DURING THE MAY 22-23 GENERAL STRIKE.

2. GOP-CONTROLLED DAILY "LA PRENSA" JUNE 9 CARRIES WHAT PURPORTS TO BE AN EXTRACT OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY RETIRED GEN ARTURO VALDES PALACIO, NUMBER 11 CANDIDATE FOR THE PSR (NOW IN HIDING), WHILE IN EXILE IN MEXICO. VALDES WAS DEPORTED BY THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT IN JAN 1977 AND RETURNED AFTER THE MARCH 15, 1978 DECREE ALLOWING THE RETURN OF POLITICAL EXILES. IN THE LETTER VALDES ALLEGEDLY STATES TO AN ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENT, "AS YOU KNOW, MY THESIS IS THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ANY ACTION IN PERU, EVEN THOUGH SOME SUCCESS MAY BE OBTAINED BY ELECTORAL MEANS, SINCE THEY (ELECTIONS) WILL ALWAYS BE MEDIATIZED (SUBORDINATE TO A HIGH AUTHORITY BUT RETAINING SYMBOLIC POWER)." THE LETTER ADVOCATES A "GOOD STRUGGLE" IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OVER THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF CONSOLIDATING REVOLUTIONARY REFORMS. IT IMPLIES THAT THE PSR TACTIC WILL BE

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TO TRY TO DISRUPT AND PARALYZE THE ASSEMBLY, THUS FORCING THE GOP TO DISSOLVE THE GROUP AND DEPORT TROUBLESOME ELEMENTS, EITHER OF WHICH WOULD GIVE THE GOVERNMENT A BAD INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, ESPECIALLY AT THE SEAT OF THE "EMPIRE" (I.E., THE U.S.) THE LETTER CLOSES, "WE MUST BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AND HELP THE GOVERNMENT TO DESTABILIZE ITSELF, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONSOLIDATING OUR POSITIONS."

3. COMMENT: THE "LA PRENSA" TREATMENT OF THE ALLEGED VALDES
PALACIO LETTER APPEARS INTENDED TO SUPPORT THE GOP'S THEORY THAT THE
MAY DISTURBANCES WERE PART OF A LEFTIST PLOT. IT COULD ALSO BE USED
TO JUSTIFY DISQUALIFYING SOME OF THE LEFTIST CANDIDATES FOR THE
ASSEMBLY WHO ARE IN HIDING OR HAVE BEEN DEPORTED.

SHLAUDEMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION LAW, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, ALLEGATIONS, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA05095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780244-0492
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780677/aaaacocv.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52e0428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIMA 4781
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2419011
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISQUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES; A STRAW IN THE WIND
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52e0428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014